



DECISION MEMO
ALASKAN DREAMS SHORE TIES
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
ORR ISLAND, SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 69 SOUTH, RANGE 78 EAST,
COPPER RIVER MERIDIAN.
THORNE BAY RANGER DISTRICT
ALASKA

BACKGROUND

Alaskan Dreams Lodge, owned by Cindi and Rick Hufstader, is seeking to anchor four shore ties to their floating lodge on Orr Island for extra protection in case of high winds. They also would like to anchor a satellite dish to a small platform on shore, and have (already permitted through the State of Alaska) a water line running to a small stream which provides fresh water for the lodge. The owners would like to have a Special Use Permit authorizing these activities.

DECISION

I have decided to authorize a special use permit for 4 shore ties, a 12" PVC waterline approximately 1,000' long, and a small mounting platform for a satellite dish, to Alaskan Dreams Fishing & Hunting Lodge, located on Orr Island, Section 12, Township 69 South, Range 78 East, Copper River Meridian. The permit will be issued for a term of 5 years.

The waterline is constructed of 12" PVC pipe. The line runs 975 linear feet and begins 120 feet upstream from tidewater. The line is currently permitted by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Water Resources Section, under Fish Habitat Permit FH-15-VII-0039, for withdrawal of up to 400 gallons of water per day. The line provides the lodge with fresh water. The waterline is located in a stream which holds pink salmon, and will not block fish passage.

The platform anchoring the satellite dish is a wooden structure on the shore adjacent to the lodge. The dish provides television and internet to the lodge owners and customers.

This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). This category of actions is identified in 36 CFR 220.6 (e)(3): "Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National Forest System lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land."

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

This action was originally listed as a proposal on the Tongass National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions July 2010, but was on hold for several years until recently, when the project was revisited. On July 22, 2016, scoping was initiated for this project. Letters were mailed to several tribal entities and interested individuals, and an email was sent to individuals who had signed up for project updates online. A total of 444 people received email notifications regarding the project. Comments were solicited; none were received.

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

2008 TONGASS LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This decision is consistent with the 2008 Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The project is located within an area identified in the Forest Plan as having a Timber Production Land Use Designation (LUD). Direction for management of this area is:

LANDS Special Use Administration (Non-Recreation): LAND2

A. Authorize only those uses that are compatible with LUD objectives. Avoid issuing, or limit the duration of, permits for uses that require natural surroundings.

ANILCA Sections 810 & 811, Subsistence Evaluation and Finding

The effects of this project have been evaluated to determine potential effects on subsistence opportunities and resources. There is no documented or reported subsistence use that would be restricted as a result of this decision. For this reason, this action would not result in a significant possibility of a significant restriction of subsistence use of wildlife, fish, or other foods.

Endangered Species Act of 1973

A Biological Evaluation was completed for the original shore ties on July 27, 2007, and the site was re-evaluated for this action in June, 2016. The result indicates that no sensitive species will experience impacts that would cause or contribute to a trend towards federal listing or cause a loss of viability to the population or species.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The Forest Service program for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) includes locating, inventorying and evaluating the National Register of Historic Places eligibility of historic and archeological sites that may be directly or indirectly affected by scheduled activities. Regulations (36 CFR 800) implementing Section 106 of the NHPA require Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on sites that are determined eligible for inclusion in or are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (termed "historic properties"). On June 14, 2016, a pedestrian archaeological survey was conducted in the unnamed cove the floating



lodge is anchored in. No cultural sites were found in the area of potential effects. The Heritage Specialist has determined that No Historic Properties will be affected by the permitting action.

Floodplain Management (E.O. 11988), & Protection of Wetlands (E.O. 11990)

This activity will not impact the functional value of any floodplain as defined by Executive Order 11988 and will not have negative impacts on wetlands as defined by Executive Order 11990.

Recreational Fisheries (E.O. 12962)

Federal agencies are required, to the extent permitted by law and where practicable, and in cooperation with States and Tribes, to improve the quantity, function, sustainable productivity, and distribution of U.S. aquatic resources for increased recreational fishing opportunities. As required by this Order, I have evaluated the effects of this action on aquatic systems and recreational fisheries and documented those effects relative to the purpose of this order. Since there are no effects to fisheries resources within the project area there will be no direct, indirect or cumulative impacts related to this Order.

Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898)

I have determined that, in accordance with Executive Order 12898, this project does not have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low income populations.

Invasive Species (E.O. 13112)

Executive Order 13112 directs Federal agencies to identify actions which may affect the status of invasive species; prevent the introduction of invasive species; detect and respond rapidly to and control populations of such species; monitor invasive species populations; and to provide for restoration of native species and habitat conditions in ecosystems that have been invaded.

Actions to be taken include planning at the local, tribal, and state level for species that are likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or, regional, and ecosystem levels, in cooperation with stake holders and organizations addressing invasive species. Agencies are not to fund or authorize actions that the agency believes are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species, unless the benefits of the action outweigh the potential harm caused by the species.

A Forest Service botanist completed an Invasive Risk Assessment for this project. Based on the results of this assessment, there is minimal risk for invasive plant spread or establishment associated with this project.

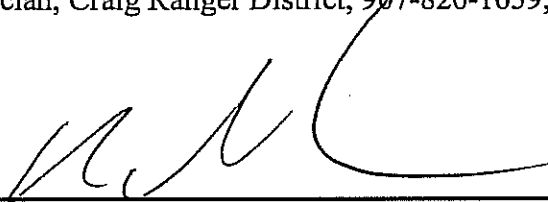
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires that all federal agencies consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service when any project "may adversely affect" essential fish habitat (EFH). The Forest Service has determined that this project will not adversely affect EFH.

This project may be implemented immediately.

CONTACT

For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Katie Rooks, Recreation Technician, Craig Ranger District, 907-826-1639, or krooks@fs.fed.us.



Matthew D. Anderson

9/23/16
Date

District Ranger

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.